UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/618
8 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled:

"Environment and sustainable development:

"(a) Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"(b) Desertification and drought;

"(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

"(e) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"(f) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

---

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/618 and addenda.

2. At the same meeting, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session sub-item 96 (c) entitled "Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas" and to consider it directly in plenary meeting.

3. The Second Committee held general discussions on the item at its 18th to 23rd, 34th, 35th and 39th meetings, on 30 and 31 October, from 1 to 3 November and on 15, 16 and 27 November 1995. The general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) was held at the 18th to 23rd meetings, on 30 and 31 October and from 1 to 3 November. The general discussion on sub-items (d) and (e) was held at the 34th and 35th meetings, on 15 and 16 November. The general discussion on sub-item (f) was held at the 39th meeting, on 27 November. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.18-23, 34, 35 and 39). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 3 and 4 and from 9 to 11 October (see A/C.2/50/SR.3-8).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/50/25); 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/50/171);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/50/182-E/1995/66 and Corr.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the activities of the Programme in environmental monitoring (A/50/371);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (A/C.2/50/2);

(f) Letter dated 19 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the summit meeting of the group of seven major industrialized countries, held at Halifax, Canada, from 15 to 17 June 1995 (A/50/254-S/1995/501);

(g) Letter dated 8 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Ninth Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held at Quito on 4 and 5 September 1995 (A/50/425-S/1995/787);

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25.

(h) Letter dated 18 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the official communiqué of the Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 3 to 15 September 1995 (A/50/475);

(i) Letter dated 2 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the nineteenth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 29 September 1995 (A/50/518);

(j) Letter dated 18 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Statement of Intent for Sustainable Development Cooperation and Joint Implementation of Measures to Reduce Emissions of Greenhouse Gases by the Governments of the United States of America, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, signed on 9 June 1995 at San José (A/50/366);

(k) Letter dated 30 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a press release issued following the second meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region, held at Algiers on 23 and 24 August 1995 (A/50/400);

(l) Note verbale dated 5 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting documents of the inaugural Summit of the Association of Caribbean States, held at Port-of-Spain on 17 and 18 August 1995 (A/50/407);

(m) Letter dated 31 October 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/50/6);

(a) Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

(a) Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/50/3, chap. VI, sect. A); 2/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/50/515);

2/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/50/3/Rev.1).

(c) Report of the Secretary-General containing proposals on the format, scope and organizational aspects of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21 (A/50/453);

(d) Report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/50/218);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (A/50/74 and Add.1);

(b) Desertification and drought

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/347);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (A/50/516);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/50/227-E/1995/99);

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/50/716 and Add.1);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the final report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/50/536);

(e) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/50/422 and Add.1);

(f) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/201-E/1995/74);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General concerning the core functions of the secretariat of the Decade (A/50/521);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the early-warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters (A/50/526).

5. At the 18th meeting, on 30 October, introductory statements on the item as a whole and on sub-items (a) and (b) were made by the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director of the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (see A/C.2/50/SR.18).

6. At the 20th meeting, on 31 October, an introductory statement was made by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (see A/C.2/50/SR.20).

7. At the 34th meeting, on 15 November, introductory statements on sub-items (d) and (e) were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see A/C.2/50/SR.33).

8. At the 39th meeting, on 27 November, an introductory statement on sub-item (f) was made by the Director of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (see A/C.2/50/SR.39).

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/618/Add.1
14 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (a)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part II)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96, sub-items (a) and (b) (see A/50/618, para. 3). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 23rd, 36th, 37th, 40th, 41st and 43rd meetings, on 3, 16, 17 and 30 November and on 5 and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.23, 36, 37, 40, 41 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.8 and A/C.2/50/L.45

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 3 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/50/L.8), which read:

---

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/618 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 49/117 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and 49/119 on the International Day for Biological Diversity of 19 December 1994,

"Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1/

"Recalling also Agenda 21, 2/ particularly its chapter 15, on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

"Recalling further the recommendations of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity, 3/

"Deeply concerned by the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reiterating the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, and the sustainable use of its components, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

"1. Welcomes the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nassau, the Bahamas, from 28 November to 9 December 1994, as reflected in the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, 4/ submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 49/117;

"2. Takes note of the results of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in Paris, from 4 to 8 September 1995, including its medium-term programme of work for 1996-1997 as well as its contribution to the open-ended ad hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

1/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (i).

4/ A/50/218.

"3. Calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

"4. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 6 to 17 November 1995."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 30 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/50/L.45), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.8.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.45, without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution I).

5. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.45, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.22 and A/C.2/50/L.54

6. At the 36th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/50/L.22), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and its other relevant resolutions and decisions, and the recommendations made in Agenda 21, 5/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"Recalling also its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

"Recalling further its resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994, in which it urged the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare for the

---

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex II.

first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the Convention,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/234 6/ and on possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional annexes, and having also considered Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 7/1 7/ on dates and venue of the sessions of the Committee during the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"Expressing its concern about the present level of the Special Voluntary Fund for the participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries,

"Noting also that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has established two working groups in order to be able to discharge its responsibilities in the preparation of the first session of the Conference of Parties,

"Expressing its concern about the present level of the Trust Fund, which requires adequate funding to enable the interim secretariat to respond to the request for support in carrying out activities in implementation of urgent action in Africa as well as actions in other affected developing regions,

"Considering that the Convention is one of the main steps in the implementation and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"1. Welcomes the signing of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa by a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization and the ratification of the Convention by a growing number of States, and urges States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

"2. Invites all States, in addition to the information they have already provided, to continue to communicate to the interim secretariat of the Convention information on actions undertaken or envisaged for the implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa; 8/

6/ A/50/515.

7/ A/50/74/Add.1, annex, appendix II.

8/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III.

"3. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall continue to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the Convention;

"4. Decides, for this purpose, to convene two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1996, each of up to two weeks' duration, the eighth session to be held at Geneva from 5 to 16 February and the ninth session in New York from 3 to 13 September;

"5. Decides also to convene a further two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1997, each of up to two weeks' duration, the tenth session to be held in New York from 6 to 17 January and the eleventh session in April, the exact dates and venue of which to be determined at a later stage;

"6. Recommends that, upon the entry into force of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention be convened in the second and third weeks of June 1997 or, alternatively, the second and third weeks of August 1997, the exact dates and venue of which to be determined at a later stage;

"7. Requests all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations, appropriate scientific and business communities, trade unions, relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups to take action for the prompt implementation of the Convention and its relevant regional annexes upon its entry into force and in this regard to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and the Latin American and Caribbean regions;

"8. Urges all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations and all other relevant actors to take actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa;

"9. Decides that the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose and administered by the head of the interim secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of using the Fund, as appropriate, to support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Committee and of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

"10. Urges States, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to reinforce the capacity of the interim secretariat of the Convention through substantial contributions to the Trust Fund;

"11. Renews its appeals to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to make early contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund in order to ensure an enhanced effective participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries;

"12. Welcomes the arrangements concluded between the interim secretariat of the Convention and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Meteorological Organization, whereby appropriate actions are to be taken for active collaboration and support of activities at the national and regional levels in affected developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, and invites the interim secretariat to conclude similar arrangements with other relevant organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

"13. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit progress reports on the Committee's work to the General Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies of the United Nations;

"14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions;

"15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution relative to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, under the item entitled 'Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development'."

7. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/50/L.54), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.22.

8. At the same meeting, a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.54 was read out by the Secretary of the Committee (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.54, without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution II).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Benin and Mauritania (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

11. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23 and A/C.2/50/L.78

12. At the 37th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" (A/C.2/50/L.23), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 9/

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing proposals on the format, scope and organizational aspects of such a special session, 10/

"1. Decides to convene the special session envisaged in resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week during the month of June 1997 at the highest possible level of participation;

"2. Encourages participants at the high-level meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held during its fourth session, in 1996, to address, inter alia, matters related to the special session of the General Assembly decided on above;

"3. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to convene its Ad Hoc Inter-Sessional Working Group meeting, in February 1997, as an open-ended meeting, so as to assist the Commission on Sustainable Development in undertaking the review for the special session;

"4. Welcomes the decision of the Commission to devote its fifth session, in 1997, to preparations for the special session, and decides that that session of the Commission will be open-ended, with all States participating on an equal footing;

9/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

10/ A/50/453.

"5. Welcomes the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Council emphasized the need for the Programme, in accordance with its mandate in the implementation of Agenda 21, to continue to provide effective support to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in which the Council decided to hold its nineteenth session early in 1997 with a view to making a contribution to the special session;

"6. Invites Governments as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations to consider undertaking reviews of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels with a view to contributing to the preparations for the special session;

"7. Also invites all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the specialized agencies and other multilateral organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the special session, and requests the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, in close coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development, to ensure an effective and coordinated system-wide response to the preparation of the special session;

"8. Further invites the conferences of parties or other regulatory bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as well as the regulatory bodies of other relevant instruments, as appropriate, and the Global Environment Facility, to provide their inputs to the special session;

"9. Recognizes the important role played by the non-governmental organizations at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and recognizes the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session, in accordance with the practice of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

"10. Decides to establish a voluntary fund to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the special session and its preparatory process, and invites Governments to contribute to the fund;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, a comprehensive report containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

in the implementation of Agenda 21, 11/ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 11/ and related conference outcomes, as well as recommendations for future actions and priorities, including those concerning institutional matters, in particular the role of the Commission, and requests that the report include:

"(a) Concise reports containing an assessment of the progress achieved in specific sectoral and cross-sectoral areas;

"(b) Country profiles providing a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the national level, compiled on the basis of national information received and in close cooperation with the Governments concerned;

"12. Decides to include a sub-item entitled 'Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21' in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a progress report on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session."

13. A statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly was contained in document A/C.2/50/L.55.

14. At the 43rd meeting, on 12 December the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" (A/C.2/50/L.78), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23.

15. A statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was contained in document A/C.2/50/L.82.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78, without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution III).

17. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Canada (see A/C.2/50/SR.43).

18. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

11/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ..., resolution 1, annex I.

D. Draft decision

19. At the 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the notes by the Secretary-General on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, submitted under agenda item 96 (a) (see para. 21).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

20. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 49/117 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and 49/119 on the International Day for Biological Diversity of 19 December 1994,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity, 12/

Recalling also Agenda 21, 13/ particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

Recalling further the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity, 14/

Deeply concerned by the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reiterating the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, and the sustainable use of its components, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

---

12/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

13/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

14/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (i).

1. Welcomes the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nassau, the Bahamas, from 28 November to 9 December 1994, as reflected in the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, 15/ submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 49/117;

2. Takes note that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has decided to accept the offer of the Government of Canada to host the secretariat of the Convention, and expresses its appreciation for the support offered by the Canadian authorities to ensure the effective functioning of the secretariat;

3. Takes note of the results of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 4 to 8 September 1995, including its medium-term programme of work for 1996-1997 and its contribution to the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

4. Calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held at Jakarta, Indonesia, from 6 to 17 November 1995, and also invites the Secretary to make the reports of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention available to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989 and 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and its other relevant resolutions and decisions, and the recommendations made in Agenda 21, 16/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

---

15/ A/50/218.

16/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Recalling also its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it decided to establish the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling further its resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994, in which it decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should continue to function in order, inter alia, to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 17/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/234 18/ and on possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional implementation annexes, 19/ and having also considered Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 7/1 20/ on dates and venue of the sessions of the Committee during the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its concern about the present level of the Special Voluntary Fund for participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries,

Noting that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has established two working groups in order to be able to discharge its responsibilities in the preparation for the first session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its concern about the present level of the Trust Fund, established pursuant to its resolution 47/188, to support the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat,

Considering that the Convention is one of the main steps in the implementation and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

1. Welcomes the signing of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 17/ by a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization and the ratification of the

---

17/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

18/ A/50/515.

19/ A/50/347.

20/ See A/50/74/Add.1, annex, appendix II.

Convention by a growing number of States, and urges States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

2. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, shall continue to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as specified in the Convention;

3. Also decides, for this purpose, to convene two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1996, each of up to two weeks' duration, the eighth session to be held at Geneva from 5 to 16 February and the ninth session in New York from 3 to 13 September;

4. Further decides to convene the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, which is to be held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997 and, pending the entry into force of the Convention, to convene, as necessary, a further session of the Committee in 1997, of up to two weeks' duration, the exact dates and venue of which shall be determined at a later stage;

5. Recommends that, upon the entry into force of the Convention, a session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention be convened in the second and third weeks of June 1997 or, alternatively, in the second and third weeks of August 1997, the exact dates and venue of the session to be determined at a later stage;

6. Requests all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations, appropriate scientific and business communities, trade unions, relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups to take action for the prompt implementation of the Convention and its relevant regional implementation annexes 21/ upon its entry into force and in this regard to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regions;

7. Urges all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations and all other relevant actors to undertake actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa, 22/ as well as to promote actions for other affected developing countries and regions, and invites all States to continue to communicate to the interim secretariat of the Convention, in addition to the information they have already provided, information on actions undertaken and/or envisaged for the implementation of the provisions of resolution 5/1;

21/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II, annexes I-IV.

22/ See A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III, sect. A.

8. Decides that the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose and administered by the head of the interim secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of using the Fund, as appropriate, to support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

9. Urges States, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to reinforce the capacity of the interim secretariat of the Convention through substantial contributions to the Trust Fund;

10. Renews its appeals to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to make early contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund in order to ensure an enhanced effective participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and/or drought, in particular the least developed countries;

11. Notes the arrangements and contributions made by the Secretary-General and relevant organizations active in the fields of desertification, drought and development, including the United Nations Development Programme/Office to Combat Desertification and Drought, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank, as regards the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat in the conduct of their mandate, and invites them to intensify and expand such support and collaboration in the future, as appropriate;

12. Also notes the arrangements concluded between the interim secretariat of the Convention and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Meteorological Organization, whereby appropriate actions are taken for an active collaboration and support of activities at the national and regional levels in affected developing countries, in particular those in Africa, and the least developed countries;

13. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit progress reports on the work of the Committee to the General Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies of the United Nations;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution relative to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, under the item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 23/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing proposals on the format, scope and organizational aspects of such a special session, 24/

1. Decides to convene the special session envisaged in resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week during the month of June 1997 at the highest possible level of participation;

2. Encourages participants at the high-level meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held during its fourth session, in 1996, to address, inter alia, matters related to the special session of the General Assembly decided on above;

3. Invites the Commission to devote its Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group meeting, to be held in February 1997, to assisting the Commission in undertaking the review for the special session;

4. Welcomes the decision of the Commission to devote its fifth session, in 1997, to preparations for the special session, and decides that that session of the Commission will be open-ended in its deliberations, allowing for the full participation of all States;

23/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

24/ A/50/453.

5. Invites the Commission to make available to the Assembly at the special session all relevant reports prepared under the aegis of the Commission, along with the recommendations of the Commission thereon;

6. Welcomes the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Council emphasized the need for the Programme, in accordance with its mandate in the implementation of Agenda 21, to continue to provide effective support to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in which the Council decided to hold its nineteenth session early in 1997 with a view to making a contribution to the special session;

7. Invites Governments as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations to consider undertaking reviews of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels with a view to contributing to the preparations for the special session;

8. Welcomes the preparation of hemispheric, regional and subregional conferences on sustainable development, and in that context invites the Governments concerned to contribute to the special session the outcomes of such conferences;

9. Also invites all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the specialized agencies and other multilateral organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the special session, and requests the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, in close coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development, to ensure an effective and coordinated system-wide response to the preparation of the special session;

10. Further invites the conferences of parties or other regulatory bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as well as the regulatory bodies of other relevant instruments, as appropriate, and the Global Environment Facility, to provide their inputs to the special session;

11. Recognizes the important role played by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and recognizes the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session;

12. Invites Governments to assist the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the special session and its preparatory process, and in that regard invites them to make appropriate contributions to the Trust Fund to Support the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, a comprehensive report containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, 23/ and in the implementation of related outcomes, as well as recommendations for future actions and priorities, and requests that the report include:

(a) Concise reports containing an assessment of the progress achieved in specific sectoral and cross-sectoral areas;

(b) Country profiles providing a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the national level, compiled on the basis of national information received and in close cooperation with the Governments concerned;

(c) Major and emerging trends and issues within the framework of Agenda 21 and related outcomes of the Conference in the area of sustainable development, including the environmental impact of activities that are gravely hazardous to the environment, taking into account the views of States;

(d) Recommendations on the future role of the Commission in the follow-up to the outcome of the Conference and related outcomes, building on experience gained since 1992;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to mount a public information programme to raise global awareness of both the special session to review the implementation of Agenda 21 and the work undertaken by the United Nations in the follow-up to the Conference;

15. Decides that the preparations for the special session and the special session itself shall be kept within the agreed appropriation level for the 1996-1997 biennium;

16. Decides to include a sub-item entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a progress report on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session.

* * *

21. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Notes by the Secretary-General on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly takes note of the notes by the Secretary-General on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. 25/

25/ A/50/74 and Add.1.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/618/Add.2
14 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (b)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Report of the Second Committee (Part III)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96, sub-items (a) and (b) (see A/50/618, para. 3). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 38th, 41st and 43rd meetings, on 22 November and 5 and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38, 41 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.29 and L.52

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Desertification and drought" (A/C.2/50/L.29), which read:

---

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/618 and addenda.

95-40317 (E) 151295 181295

/...

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 48/175 of 21 December 1993 in which it recalled the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development set forth in chapter 12, entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought", of Agenda 21 1/ and took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 38.27 of Agenda 21 and of decision 93/33 of 18 June 1993 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, 2/

"Noting the work being undertaken under the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

"Recalling its resolution 48/175, in which it recalled the appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to the United Nations Environment Programme to continue and strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification, notably through support for the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office by the joint venture programme,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 48/175, 3/

"Expressing its concern at the present level of resources available to relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate drought in all affected developing countries and regions,

"1. Welcomes the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Development Programme to strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification through the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Development Programme partnership to combat desertification;

"2. Renews its appeal to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including the International Monetary Fund, as well as non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to relevant United Nations bodies, including, the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, to

---

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolution Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 15 (E/1993/35), annex I.

3/ A/50/347.

strengthen their capacity to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate drought in all affected developing countries and regions;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Desertification and drought" (A/C.2/50/L.52), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.29.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.52 without a vote (see para. 8).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Canada (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

6. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.52, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.29 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decisions

7. At its 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/115 (A/50/516) and of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/50/227-E/1995/99), submitted under agenda item 96 (b) (see para. 9, draft decisions I and II, respectively).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Desertification and drought

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/175 of 21 December 1993 in which it recalled the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development set forth in chapter 12, entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating

desertification and drought", of Agenda 21 4/ and took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 38.27 of Agenda 21 and of decision 93/33 of 18 June 1993 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, 5/

Noting the work being undertaken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling its resolution 48/175, in which it recalled the appeals to the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to continue and strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification, notably through support for the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) by the joint venture programme,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 48/175, 6/

Expressing its concern at the present level of resources available to relevant United Nations bodies, including the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) of the United Nations Development Programme, to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in all affected developing countries and regions,

1. Welcomes the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification through the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Development Programme partnership to combat desertification;

2. Renews its appeal to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to relevant United Nations bodies, including the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) of the United Nations Development Programme, to strengthen their capacity to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in all affected developing countries and regions;

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

5/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 15 (E/1993/35), annex I.

6/ A/50/347.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, which would be considered under one unified sub-item on the agenda entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

9. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Report of the Secretary-General on observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/115

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/115. 7/

DRAFT DECISION II

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region. 8/

7/ A/50/516.

8/ A/50/227-E/1995/99.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/618/Add.3
8 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (d)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Report of the Second Committee (Part IV)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96, sub-item (d) (see A/50/618, para. 3). Action to be taken under sub-item (d) was considered at the 41st meeting, on 5 December. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary record (A/C.2/50/SR.41).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/50/L.33

2. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/50/L.33), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

3. A statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.33, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was contained in document A/C.2/50/L.49.

---

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/618 and addenda.

4. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of New Zealand and the United States of America (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.33 without a vote (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/212 of 21 December 1990, 46/169 of 19 December 1991, 47/195 of 22 December 1992, 48/189 of 21 December 1993 and 49/120 of 19 December 1994,

Noting with satisfaction that a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1/ and calling upon other States to take appropriate action to that end,

Noting that, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 48/189, the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was convened from 28 March to 7 April 1995 in Berlin, and that it was attended by one hundred and sixteen of the then one hundred and eighteen Parties to the Convention, as well as by a large number of governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental observers,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Germany for the generous manner in which it hosted the first session of the Conference of the Parties,

Looking forward to the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the successful conclusion of the Berlin Mandate 2/ process at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

---

1/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

2/ FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

Noting the important scientific contribution of the World Meteorological Organization/United Nations Environment Programme Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to the Convention process and looking forward to the completion of its second assessment report,

Recognizing the contribution to the Convention process of the interim secretariat of the Convention, within the framework of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, as well as the support provided to that secretariat by the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and bilateral contributors,

Taking note of the advice of the Secretary-General on an institutional linkage for the secretariat of the Convention with the United Nations, including the procedures indicated therein for the application of the Financial Regulations and the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules of the United Nations and for the appointment and accountability of the head of that secretariat, 3/

Taking note also of the decision of the Conference of the Parties, 4/ on the basis of the advice of the Secretary-General, that the Convention secretariat shall be institutionally linked to the United Nations, while not being fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme,

Taking note further of the financial procedures for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its subsidiary bodies and its permanent secretariat adopted at its first session, 5/ whereby, inter alia, the Secretary-General is asked to establish trust funds for the purposes of the Convention, to be managed by the head of the Convention secretariat in accordance with duly delegated authority,

Taking note further of the decision of the Conference of the Parties 4/ whereby the General Assembly is requested, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States that are Parties to the Convention, to decide to finance from the regular programme budget of the United Nations the conference-servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage mentioned above,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/120, with particular reference to the

---

3/ See A/AC.237/79/Add.1; FCCC/CP/1995/5/Add.4; and A/50/716, para. 49.

4/ FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 14/CP.1.

5/ Ibid., decision 15/CP.1, annex I.

implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, 6/

1. Takes note with appreciation of:

(a) The report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a Framework Convention on Climate Change on its eleventh session; 7/

(b) The final report prepared on behalf of the Committee, by its Chairman, on the completion of the Committee's work; 8/

(c) The report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on its first session 9/ and its presentation on behalf of the President of the Conference;

2. Endorses the institutional linkage between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations, as advised by the Secretary-General and adopted by the Conference of the Parties; 10/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to review the functioning of this institutional linkage not later than 31 December 1999, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

4. Notes that the Conference of the Parties has decided to accept the offer of the Government of Germany to host the Convention secretariat 11/ and expresses its appreciation for the support offered by the future host Government for the relocation and effective functioning of the Convention secretariat;

5. Notes with appreciation contributions made to the extrabudgetary funds established under paragraphs 10 and 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/212, and maintained in accordance with Assembly resolution 47/195;

6. Urges Member States that are Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full for each of the years 1996 and 1997, in accordance with the indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, 12/

6/ A/50/716.

7/ A/AC.237/91 and Add.1.

8/ A/50/536.

9/ FCCC/CP/1995/7 and Add.1.

10/ FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 14/CP.1.

11/ Ibid., decision 16/CP.1.

12/ FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 15/CP.1, annex II.

the contributions required for the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in paragraph 13 of its financial procedures, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

7. Calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to also contribute generously to the trust fund for participation in the Convention process envisaged in paragraph 15 of its financial procedures, as well as to the trust funds envisaged for supplementary activities under the Convention; 13/

8. Decides to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996-1997 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium entailing twelve weeks of conference-servicing facilities;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene in that period;

10. Takes note of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the Convention secretariat, outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/120, with particular reference to the implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties, on its first session, 14/ which should facilitate the establishment and relocation of the Convention secretariat and assist it in addressing any initial financial and personnel problems that may be encountered within this context, also takes note of the financing arrangements contained in operative paragraphs 8 and 9 above, and requests the Secretary-General to review these arrangements towards the end of the biennium 1996-1997 and to report upon the results of this review to the Assembly at its fifty-second session;

11. Notes that the Secretary-General intends:

(a) To transfer the end-1995 balance in the trust fund for the negotiating process established under paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/212 into the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in paragraph 13 of its financial procedures;

(b) To transfer the end-1995 balance in the special voluntary fund for participation in the negotiating process established under paragraph 10 of the same resolution into the trust fund for participation in the Convention process envisaged in paragraph 15 of the aforementioned financial procedures;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution;

13/ Ibid., decision 15/CP.1, annex I, and decision 18/CP.1.

14/ A/50/716, paras. 36-38.

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/618/Add.4
8 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (e)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Report of the Second Committee (Part V)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96, sub-items (d) and (e) (see A/50/618, para. 3). Action to be taken under sub-item (e) was considered at the 38th and 40th meetings, on 22 and 30 November 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38 and 40).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/50/L.32 AND A/C.2/50/L.47

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November. the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, subsequently joined by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/50/L.32), which read:

---

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/618 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"Recalling also its resolution 49/100 of 19 December 1994 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries,

"Reaffirming that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that those States will be constrained in meeting such challenges without the cooperation of the international community,

"1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General 1/ on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; 2/

"2. Takes note of the establishment of the Small Island Developing States Unit within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain its level of staffing and its structure and organization in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122;

"3. Commends the Department for action taken in support of the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action;

"4. Welcomes the action taken to enable the regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"5. Takes note of the interim measures instituted to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to enable it to complement the functions of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/122;

"6. Calls upon Governments, as well as organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to implement fully all commitments reached and recommendations made at the Conference and to take

---

1/ A/50/422 and Add.1.

2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

the action necessary for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including ensuring the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof;

"7. Welcomes, in particular, the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing General Assembly resolution 49/122, and invites the Programme to continue to implement fully the provisions of the technical assistance programme, including the compilation of a directory of institutions and scholars with recognized expertise in the sustainable development of small island developing States, and the information network for small island developing States;

"8. Takes note of the action taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development 1/ in following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action, and invites the Commission at its fourth session to give due attention to small island developing States in the national presentations on coastal zone management;

"9. Notes the initial action taken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in preparation for the high-level panel to discuss the challenges faced by island developing countries, particularly in the area of external trade, and invites them to complete the arrangements in time for the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and to make the report of the panel available to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General, in keeping with paragraphs 113 and 114 of the Programme of Action, to provide for the early development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, through the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and calls upon the Commission on Sustainable Development to make adequate provisions for the examination of such an index at the earliest possible time;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the programmes and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States implemented in response to the Programme of Action, as well as programmes and projects under implementation and plans, programmes and projects envisaged up to five years after the date of the report;

"12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the Global

---

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32).

Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States';

"13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on action taken to implement the present resolution."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 30 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/50/L.47), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.32.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.47 without a vote (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.47, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.32 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolution 49/100 of 19 December 1994 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries,

Reaffirming that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that small island developing States will be constrained in meeting such challenges without the cooperation of the international community,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General 4/ on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of

---

4/ A/50/422 and Add.1.

Small Island Developing States, 5/ and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. Takes note of the establishment of the Small Island Developing States Unit within the Department, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain the level of staffing and the structure and organization of the Unit in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122;

3. Welcomes the action that has been taken to enable the regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

4. Takes note of the interim measures that have been instituted to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to enable it to complement the functions of the Department with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/122;

5. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to continue to implement fully all the commitments and recommendations that were made at the Conference, and to continue to take the action necessary for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof;

6. Welcomes, in particular, the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing General Assembly resolution 49/122, and invites the Programme to continue to implement all the provisions of both the technical assistance programme and the information network for small island developing States, as appropriate;

7. Takes note of the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development 6/ to following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and invites the Commission at its fourth session to consider giving due attention to small island developing States in the national presentations on coastal zone management;

5/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

6/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32).

8. Notes the initial action that has been taken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in preparation for the high-level panel that is being convened to discuss the challenges faced by island developing countries, particularly in the area of external trade, and invites the Conference and the Department to complete their arrangements in time for the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and to make the report of the panel available to the Conference at its ninth session;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department include in its work programme, along with an indication of the resources of its activities and programmes, provision for the development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, to be prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the plans, programmes and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States that have been implemented in response to the Programme of Action, as well as those that are under implementation and those that are envisaged for implementation within five years of the date of the report;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on action taken to implement the present resolution.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/618/Add.5
14 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (f)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Report of the Second Committee (Part VI)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96, sub-item (f) (see A/50/618, para. 3). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 39th, 41st and 42nd meetings, on 27 November and 5 and 8 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.39, 41 and 42).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/50/L.5

2. At its 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International decade for natural disaster reduction" (see A/C.2/50/L.5), recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/47 B of 27 July 1995 to the General Assembly for adoption.

3. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

---

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/618 and addenda.

95-40071 (E) 151295 181295

/...

4. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.5 (see para. 11, draft resolution A).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.35 and L.71

5. At the 39th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of Germany, on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Marshall Islands, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/50/L.35), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and 49/22 B of 20 December 1994,

"Having considered the Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/47 A and 1995/47 B of 27 July 1995,

"Concerned about the continuing threat posed by natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, on vulnerable communities and national economies, particularly in developing countries,

"Reaffirming the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation, adopted by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, on 27 May 1994, 1/

"Emphasizing that early warnings of impending natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, linked to effective disaster preparedness measures and their effective dissemination, using telecommunications, including broadcast services, are key factors to successful disaster prevention and preparedness,

"1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on early-warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment; 2/

"2. Commends the constructive inter-agency approach applied by the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, as part of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and all concerned agencies and organizations of the United

---

1/ See A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, annex I.

2/ A/50/526.

Nations system, which has led to this initial overview and analysis of early-warning concepts, capacities and gaps and to proposals for improvements in coordination and capacity-building with regard to such disasters;

"3. Takes note of the conclusions and proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report with respect to the improvement of early-warning capabilities, better international coordination in their use, and more effective and beneficial exchange of knowledge and technology;

"4. Invites the Secretary-General, in particular, to facilitate, within the existing International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 3/ an internationally concerted framework for improvements in early-warning capacities by establishing, using the resources of the Trust Fund for the Decade, an international multisectoral informal mechanism on early warning, under the auspices of the United Nations and as part of the implementation of the Framework and the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action;

"5. Encourages all Governments to undertake, with the full support of the United Nations system, regular reviews of early-warning requirements and capabilities at their national and community levels, within the framework of the development of national disaster reduction policies and as part of their efforts to protect their natural resources and achieve sustainable development;

"6. Calls on the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early-warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, within the process leading towards the closing event of the Decade;

"7. Encourages the utilization of the Trust Fund for the Decade in order to provide and channel adequate resources for the further improvement of such early-warning capacities at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

6. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/50/L.71), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on dr ft resolution A/C.2/50/L.35, and orally revised the text in operative paragraph 9 by replacing the words "by, inter alia" with the words "including through".

3/ See General Assembly resolution 44/236, annex.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.71, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution B).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Germany (see A/C.2/50/SR.42).

9. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.35 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft decision

10. At its 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the core functions of the secretariat of the Decade submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/47 B (A/50/521) (see para. 12).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

DRAFT RESOLUTION A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and 49/22 B of 20 December 1994,

Expressing its solidarity with the people and countries that suffer as a result of natural disasters,

Emphasizing once again the urgent need for concrete measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, the loss of human lives and the heavy physical and economic damage that occur as a result of natural disasters, in particular in developing countries, small island States and land-locked countries,

Reiterating the validity of the conclusions of the first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994, in particular with regard to its call for increased bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral cooperation in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation, 4/

4/ See A/CONF.172/9, chap. I.

Commending those countries, national and local institutions, organizations and associations that have adopted policies, allocated resources and initiated action programmes, including international assistance, for disaster reduction and, in this context, welcoming the participation of private companies and individuals,

Commending all countries and intergovernmental and regional organizations that have actively engaged in regional and subregional assessments of vulnerability to natural hazards and have consequently initiated regional and subregional cooperation in the field of disaster reduction, including the exchange of data and technology, as well as the development of joint administrative, technological and scientific approaches for applied disaster reduction,

Commending those organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, scientific associations and non-governmental organizations which, in accordance with decisions of their governing bodies, have incorporated the recommendations of the General Assembly relating to disaster reduction and those of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in their programmes of work, thus contributing towards effective progress in disaster reduction in their mandated responsibilities and respective fields of activity, including the allocation of budgetary resources for disaster reduction,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General 5/ concerning the specific measures for the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, and requests the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to continue to promote and monitor their translation into concrete activities, in close cooperation with all bodies comprising the International Framework of Action for the Decade, 6/ so as to ensure timely and effective implementation;

2. Commends those developing and least developed countries that have mobilized domestic resources for disaster reduction activities and have facilitated the effective implementation of such activities, and encourages all developing countries concerned to continue in this direction;

3. Recommends that all countries, with appropriate support, continue to study conventional and non-conventional ways and means of financing disaster reduction measures, both at the national level and with respect to subregional, regional and international technical cooperation;

4. Calls upon Member States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the Decade to participate actively in the financial and technical support of Decade activities, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, in particular with a view

---

5/ A/50/201-E/1995/74.

6/ See resolution 44/236, annex.

to translating the Yokohama Strategy and the Plan of Action contained therein into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;

5. Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development to pay appropriate attention at its fourth session to the issue of disaster reduction when considering the relevant chapters of Agenda 21 7/ and of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; 8/

6. Welcomes the measures proposed by the Secretary-General to bring the International Framework of Action for the Decade into line with the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, in order to provide disaster reduction activities worldwide and regionally with authoritative and effective programme guidance so as to ensure stronger cohesion of disaster reduction programmes and the joint participation of concerned sectors in their implementation;

7. Notes the initiative for an informal mechanism between the secretariat of the Decade and Member States, intended to facilitate and support the promotion of Decade activities and the regular exchange of information between Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other organizations;

8. Welcomes, in pursuance of its resolution 49/22 A, the restructuring of the Special High-Level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee for the Decade so that for the second half of the Decade they will provide the necessary support to global, regional and national policy and strategy development, public awareness-building and resource mobilization, and at the same time provide links with the scientific community and support the national committees for the Decade and national authorities in their cooperative efforts to integrate disaster reduction programmes into national activities for sustainable development;

9. Endorses the decision of the Secretary-General to extend until the end of the Decade the mandate of the United Nations Steering Committee for the Decade, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987 and 44/236;

10. Emphasizes that effective and efficient coordination and servicing of the above-mentioned components of the International Framework of Action for the Decade require a financially and structurally stable secretariat of the Decade, reporting to the Secretary-General through the Emergency Relief Coordinator;

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

8/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

11. Decides, in pursuance of its resolution 49/22 A, to convene a closing event of the Decade, through coordinated sectoral and cross-sectoral meetings at all levels, in order to facilitate the full integration of disaster reduction into the substantive efforts for sustainable development and environmental protection by the year 2000;

12. Decides also that the secretariat of the Decade will serve as the substantive secretariat for the preparation of the closing event of the Decade, working with the full support of relevant bodies of the United Nations Secretariat and drawing on the contributions of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, other international organizations and Governments;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the availability of resources for the preparatory process, including the necessary enhancement of the capacity of the secretariat, and to appeal for additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade;

14. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade;

15. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report containing proposals on how the distinct programme and coordination capability of the secretariat of the Decade might be enhanced so as to enable it to coordinate effectively the activities of the Decade and the integration of natural disaster reduction into the sustainable development process;

16. Decides to consider the question of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction at its fifty-first session, as a separate sub-item under environmental questions related to the environment and sustainable development.

DRAFT RESOLUTION B

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and 49/22 B of 20 December 1994,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/47 A and B of 27 July 1995,

Concerned about the continued threat posed by natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on vulnerable communities, including their environments, particularly in developing countries,

Concerned also about the continuing threat posed by natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment,

Recalling the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction on 27 May 1994, 9/

Taking into account already existing early-warning capacities within the United Nations system, in particular within the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Conscious of the need to avoid duplication of work among United Nations bodies dealing with early-warning capacities,

Emphasizing that early warnings of impending natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, linked to effective disaster preparedness measures and their effective dissemination, using, in particular, telecommunications, including broadcast services, are key factors to successful disaster prevention and preparedness,

Reaffirming that sustained economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment and that special attention should be given to disaster prevention and preparedness by the Governments concerned as well as by the international community,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on early-warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment; 10/

2. Commends the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, as part of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and all concerned agencies and organizations of the United Nations system for the constructive inter-agency approach they have applied, which has led to this initial overview and analysis of early-warning concepts, capacities and gaps and to proposals for improvements in coordination and capacity-building with regard to such disasters;

3. Requests the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Decade to continue, within the scope of its work on early-warning capabilities, to examine and study new scientific and experimental concepts and methodologies for accurate and timely short-term forecasting of earthquakes, natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment with a view to making recommendations on their applicability and development in the context of international cooperation to improve preparedness for and minimize the risks of such disasters;

9/ See A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, annex I.

10/ A/50/526.

4. Takes note of the conclusions and proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report with respect to the improvement of early-warning capabilities, better international coordination in their use, and more effective and beneficial exchange of knowledge and technology;

5. Invites the Secretary-General, in particular, to facilitate, within the existing International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 11/ an internationally concerted framework for improvements in early-warning capacities by developing a concrete proposal for an effective international mechanism on early warning, to include the transfer of technologies related to early warning to developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations and as part of the implementation of the International Framework and the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action;

6. Also invites the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to make the early-warning data gathered under the United Nations auspices readily available to the decision makers concerned at the international, national, regional and subregional levels;

7. Encourages all Governments to undertake, with the full support of the United Nations system, regular reviews of early-warning requirements and capabilities at national and community levels, within the framework of the development of national disaster reduction policies in order to enhance protection of their national populations and assets;

8. Calls on the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early-warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, within the process leading towards the closing event of the Decade;

9. Recommends that donor countries give greater priority to disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, including through increasing contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade, and promote and facilitate the transfer of technologies related to early warning to developing countries within the framework of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action;

10. Encourages improved efforts, in the context of international technical assistance and cooperation within the framework of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, towards facilitating the availability of appropriate technology and reliable data, along with the corresponding training, and access to network systems related to early warning, particularly to developing countries;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

* * *

11/ Resolution 44/236, annex.

12. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the core functions of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction submitted pursuant to Economic and Social resolution 1995/47 B

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the core functions of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/47 B. 12/

12/ A/50/521.